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TOWN WARRANT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
April 26, 1993

Hampshire, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Amherst, in said county, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify the registered voters of the Town of Amherst of the Annual Town Meeting to be held in the Auditorium of the Amherst Regional Junior High School in said Amherst at seven thirty o'clock p.m. on Monday, the twenty-sixth day of April, nineteen hundred and ninety-three when the following articles will be acted upon by town meeting members:

ARTICLE 1 Reports of Committees (Select Board)

To see if the Town will hear only those reports of the Town officers, Finance Committee, and any other Town boards or committees which are not available in written form.

ARTICLE 2 Resolution Regarding Lottery Revenues (Select Board)

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Lottery was established 21 years ago for the exclusive purpose of providing cities and towns with an additional revenue source to support local services and to reduce property taxes; and

WHEREAS, for the past several years, the state has subverted the statutory intent of the Lottery by diverting large portions of Lottery revenues away from cities and towns and into the state's general fund; and

WHEREAS, although an amendment to the state budget allowed cities and towns to receive the estimated \$23 million growth in Lottery revenues for FY93, the actual growth in Lottery revenues will be \$41 million, thereby leaving cities and towns with a Lottery shortfall of \$18 million; and

WHEREAS the FY94 budget submitted by Governor Weld proposes a return to the practice of capping the Lottery and not giving cities and towns their rightful increase of Lottery revenues; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Municipal Association will offer a budget amendment to guarantee that cities and towns receive the full growth of Lottery revenues in FY94;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town instruct Senator Stanley Rosenberg and Representative Ellen Story to support an amendment to the FY94 state budget to guarantee that cities and towns receive the full \$47 million growth in Lottery revenues.

ARTICLE 3 Resolution Regarding Gas Tax Revenues (House Bill 1567/Senate Bill 1409) (Select Board)

WHEREAS state law requires that 15 percent of gas tax collections be distributed to cities and towns, with half of this amount earmarked for Chapter 90 roadway construction and repair; and

WHEREAS the state has failed over the past several years to meet its commitments to share with cities and towns state gasoline tax collections; and

WHEREAS the current outlook for next year is for cities and towns to receive only 7.5 percent of gas tax collections; and

WHEREAS, The Gas Tax Revenue Sharing Act legislation filed by the Massachusetts Municipal Association for consideration in the 1993 legislative session would create a new state fund called the Local Roads Fund to which an amount of tax collections equivalent to 10 cents of the 21 cent gas tax rate would be credited to the fund and could be used only for distributions by the State Treasurer to cities and towns for appropriation for local road construction and maintenance programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town instruct Senator Stanley Rosenberg and Representative Ellen Story to support legislation that would establish in state law a Local Roads Fund in order to ensure a fair and predictable share of state gas tax collections for distribution to cities and towns for use on local roads.

ARTICLE 4 Resolution Regarding State Education Reform (Select Board)

To see if the Town will instruct Senator Stanley Rosenberg and Representative Ellen Story to oppose any education reform bill which would have the effect of requiring the transfer of local tax funds from municipal and library services to public education in the coming or any subsequent year.

ARTICLE 5 Transfer of Funds - Unpaid Bills (Select Board)

To see if the Town will, in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 64, appropriate and transfer a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous years.

ARTICLE 6 Authorization for Temporary Borrowing (Select Board)

To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1993, in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section

4, and to issue a note or notes therefor, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

ARTICLE 7 Optional Tax Exemptions (M.G.L. Ch. 59, Sec. 17D, 22, 37A, and 41C) (Select Board)

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Assessors to reduce the taxes of certain qualifying taxpayers through means of exemptions for elderly, veterans, blind, and surviving spouses.

ARTICLE 8 Reduction of FY94 Town, School, and Library Budgets
(By Petition of Max J. Stosz, Jr.)

"To see if the Town will request the Select Board, School Committee, and Library Trustees to amend and re submit FY94 budgets to figures that are ten (10) per cent lower than their FY93 budgets, in order that Town Meeting can consider budgets consistent with the financial revenues expected to be available to the Town without the need for increased taxation and in compliance with the Proposition 2½ law."

ARTICLE 9 Retirement Assessment (Select Board)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1,219,845 for the Hampshire County Retirement System Assessment.

ARTICLE 10 Personnel Bylaw - Personnel Board Report (Personnel Board)

- To see if the Town will:
- a. hear the report of the Personnel Board;
 - b. amend the Personnel Bylaw to revise the text and amend pay schedules.

ARTICLE 11 FY 94 Operating Budget (Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will adopt a comprehensive operating budget for the ensuing year and raise and appropriate money therefor.

ARTICLE 12 Special Services - Congregate Housing (Select Board)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$50,000 for the development and coordination of support services essential to the tenants of congregate housing, said program to be fully reimbursed by the Department of Elder Affairs.

ARTICLE 13 Special Services - Elderly and Handicapped Transportation
(Select Board)

To see if the Town will accept grants from the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority for the operation of fare-free transportation services for the elderly and the handicapped and approve the levying of an assessment by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Town's proportionate share of said service.

ARTICLE 14 Special Services - Transportation Subsidies (Select Board)

To see if the Town will endorse no-fare public transit service to the Echo Hill, Cushman, and Orchard Valley areas of the Town and approve the levying of an assessment by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Town's proportionate share of the cost of such services.

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$91,050 for the following Human Services Agencies:		
Children's Aid and Family Services	4,000	
First Call for Help		6,000
Hampshire County VNA Senior Health Services	6,000	
Center For Human Development-Helen Mitchell		
Family Outreach Project		10,000
Necessities/Necesidades		4,000
Northampton Visiting Nurses Association	4,000	
Not Bread Alone		5,000
Amherst Resource Center-Companion Program		14,300
Amherst Resource Center-Counseling Program	8,000	
Amherst Survival Center		10,000
Salvation Army		1,000
YWCA		3,000
Everywoman's Center		2,500
Homesharing in Hampshire County, Inc.	1,250	
After School Tuition Program		12,000

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$3,000 for Amherst Community Television.

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$27,000 for consulting services and expenses related to economic development activities.

To see if the Town supports the use of excess and deficiency funds, held by the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee, for the purpose of architectural design and related costs to expand and renovate the Regional Senior High School. The Regional School Committee anticipates this cost will be \$75,000-\$100,000. (This is an advisory, non-binding article solicited by the Regional School Committee.)

and to determine whether such appropriation shall be raised by taxation, the transfer of available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or otherwise and further authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement for said grants.

To see if the Town will appropriate \$205,900 to purchase, repair, and/or install the following items of equipment and be authorized to turn in corresponding items of equipment as part payment and to determine whether such appropriation shall be raised by taxation, the transfer of available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or otherwise and further authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement for said grants:

- \$ 7,400 for replacement of echo recorders for the Public
Safety Communications Center
- \$ 13,500 for repeater/antenna system for the Public Safety
Communications Center
- \$ 25,000 for diesel air exhaust system for the Fire Department

\$ 70,000 for replacement of an ambulance
\$ 7,500 for replacement of diazo/blueprint machine
\$ 5,000 for restoration of archival records by the Town Clerk's
office
\$ 13,000 for E911 interface software
\$ 36,000 for replacement of police cruisers (2)
\$ 14,000 for replacement of a greens mower for Cherry Hill
\$ 10,000 for pavement of the Cherry Hill parking lot
\$ 4,500 for replacement of a water heater at the Mill River Pool
bathhouse

ARTICLE 21 Capital Program - Town Hall
(Select Board and Town Hall Restoration Committee)

To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,000,000 for renovations and repairs to the Town Hall, including design, and to determine whether such appropriation shall be raised by taxation, the transfer of available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or otherwise and further authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement for said grants.

ARTICLE 22 Capital Program - Conservation (Conservation Commission)

To see if the Town will:

- a. appropriate \$15,000 to assist the Department of Food and Agriculture, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with the purchase of Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on farms in Amherst and to determine whether such appropriation shall be raised by taxation, the transfer of available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise;
- b. appropriate and transfer \$15,024.61 from Article 43 (FY87) and \$4,975.39 from Article 28 (FY88) for Agricultural Preservation Restrictions support in the aquifer recharge or watershed areas;
- c. appropriate \$3,000 for materials for Mill River bridge repairs and to determine whether such appropriation shall be raised by taxation, the transfer of available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise.

ARTICLE 23 Roadway Improvements to Station Road (Public Works Committee)

To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of \$225,000 of Chapter 90 funds for roadway improvements to Station Road.

ARTICLE 24 Free Cash (Select Board)

To see if the Town will appropriate and transfer a sum of money from Free Cash in the undesignated fund balance of the General Fund to reduce the tax levy of the 1994 Fiscal Year.

ARTICLE 25 Capital Program - Water (Select Board)

To see if the Town will:

- a. appropriate \$165,000 to modify the clearwell at the Centennial Water Treatment Plant to meet the requirement of the Environmental Protection Administration under the Surface Water Treatment Rule and to determine whether such appropriation shall be met by the transfer of available water funds, by borrowing, or otherwise and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or otherwise and further authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement for said grants;
- b. amend action taken under Article 17 (April, 1991, \$125,000) by appropriating an additional \$25,000 for the repair of Hawley Dam and to determine whether such appropriation shall be met by the transfer of available water funds, by borrowing, or otherwise.

ARTICLE 26 Capital Program - Sewer (Select Board)

To see if the Town will appropriate \$112,000 for the following Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements:
\$ 50,000to replace a comminator
\$ 12,000to paint one clarifier and aeration tank
\$ 50,000to supplement Massachusetts Department of Energy and Northeast Utilities grants to update equipment and lighting for energy conservation purposes
and to determine whether such appropriation shall be met by the transfer of available sewer funds, by borrowing, or otherwise
and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or otherwise and further authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement for said grants.

ARTICLE 27 Mill Street Sewer (Select Board)

To see if the Town will appropriate \$22,000 to construct a sanitary sewer on Mill Street and to determine whether such appropriation shall be met by the transfer of available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise.

ARTICLE 28 Lawsuit Against the University of Massachusetts at Amherst
(By Petition of Larry Kelley)

"Town Meeting directs the Selectboard and Town Manager to immediately file a lawsuit against UMASS at Amherst, for a cost not to exceed \$10,000, to recover \$203,000 in misrouted moving ticket violation monies. Furthermore, Town Meeting directs the town attorney to also seek interest payments retroactive to original date of debt plus all attorneys fees incurred over this litigation."

ARTICLE 29 Financial Articles
(By Petition of Amherst Citizens for Responsible Government)

"To see if the Town will resolve that no financial article be brought to a vote at Town Meeting unless all financial figures, dollar amounts, and financial implications have been received by Town Meeting members in writing for consideration prior to the beginning of that session of Town Meeting."

ARTICLE 30 Override/Debt Exclusion Measures (By Petition of Vincent O'Connor)

"To see if the Town will vote to approve the Select Board's recommendations, if any, for operating budget overrides or debt exclusion measures they believe should, or the budget voted by town meeting requires, be placed in the near future before the voters of the town for their approval."

You are hereby directed to serve this call by posting attested copies therefore at the usual places:

Precinct 1	North Amherst Post Office	Precinct 6	Fort River School
Precinct 2	North Fire Station	Precinct 7	Crocker Farm School
Precinct 3	Marks Meadow School	Precinct 8	Munson Library
Precinct 4	Amherst Post Office	Precinct 9	Wildwood School
Precinct 5	Bangs Community Center	Precinct 10	Campus Center/UMass

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 12th day of April, 1993.

Bryan C. Harvey
Brenna Y. Kucinski
David T. Keenan
Elisa K. Campbell

Board of Selectmen

Hampshire, ss.

April 14, 1993
(date)

In obedience to the within Warrant, I have this day as directed posted true and attested copies thereof at the following designated places, to wit:

Sgt. Scott P. Livingstone
Constable

